



## IRTS supporting Amateur Radio

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### Counties Contest Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

 On Easter Monday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, there are two short contests. A one-hour 70cms contest at 1pm local time, followed by a two-hour 2 metre contest at 2pm. Both contests have mixed mode SSB/FM and FM only sections. Full details may be found at [www.irts.ie/contests](http://www.irts.ie/contests) Note, in particular, the permitted SSB frequencies and FM Channels, also note the QSY rule that applies to FM channels only.

### International Marconi Day - 25<sup>th</sup> April

 International Marconi Day (IMD) is a 24 hour amateur radio event that is held annually to celebrate the birth of Marconi on 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1874. The event is usually held on the Saturday closest to Marconi's birthday and this month it will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> of April. The period of operation will be from 00:00 - 23:59 UTC. The purpose of the operation is for amateur radio enthusiasts, around the world, to make contact with Historic Marconi Sites using communication techniques similar to those used by Marconi himself. Those wishing to register their station, operating from a Marconi Site for the occasion may contact the organisers at [crac.imd@gmail.com](mailto:crac.imd@gmail.com) To date there are four Irish stations registered for this event. More information from <http://gx4crc.com/gb4imd/> There are two very high quality awards available. The transmitting amateur requires communication with a minimum of 15 different official Award Stations - On mixed modes, CW voice or data. The Shortwave Listener's award requires the logging of two-way communications made by a minimum of 15 different award stations.

### ECHO IRELAND

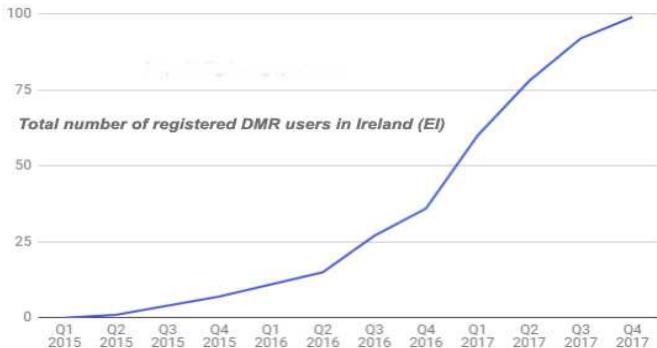
There is a vacancy for the position of Editor of Echo Ireland. If you would like to contribute to the production of the Society's Journal contact Gerry, [EI8CC](mailto:EI8CC)

### Amateur Station License Examination

 The next Amateur Station Licence Examination will be held on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May in the ComReg Offices in Dublin. Some applications have already been received. As places are limited and are allocated on a first come first served basis those intending to sit the examination should apply soon. Full details, including entry procedure, examination fee and how to pay the fee on line are available at [www.irts.ie/exam](http://www.irts.ie/exam) Please note that it is necessary to download the application form from the web page and forward the completed form and the appropriate fee so as to secure a place for the examination. It is important to note that even if you pay the fee on line you must still complete and forward the application form. The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

### Digital Radio Activity

The numbers of EI operators registering for a DMR ID rose dramatically from 33 in 2017 to 111 in the early part of this year. Undoubtedly the dissemination of information about the Modes available, and the provision of both DMR and Yaesu Fusion Repeaters and Gateways would have accounted for this. The County with the greatest number of registered operators is Cork.



## IRTS AGM 2018

14/15 April 2018

Galway Bay Hotel, Salthill, Galway

Lectures, Dinner, Rally and AGM



Hosted by Galway VHF Group



Updated information on [www.irts.ie/agm](http://www.irts.ie/agm)



## IRTS AGM Weekend in Galway

The 86<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting if the Irish Radio Transmitters Society will be hosted by the Galway VHF Group over the weekend of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of April in the Galway Bay Hotel.

It is very easy to get to the Galway Bay Hotel from the Galway Bus and Train Station. The 401 bus stop or Big O Cabs are situated nearby. If you have a Free Travel Pass why not have a Free day in Galway and enjoy the IRTS Rally and AGM on Sunday as well.

There will be Workshop Talks held on Saturday afternoon, commencing at 2pm sharp, and these include:

An Introduction to Digital Radio  
The 7Q7EI Expedition  
FT8-The Weak Signal Mode  
Fun in Space.

The Annual Dinner will be held in the Hotel at 7:30pm.

The Radio Rally will be held in a spacious room on Sunday with Doors opening at the earlier time of 10am with an entrance fee of €5.00. There will be a good selection of Traders including:

Mike Higgins EI0CL- Massive Clearance Sale  
Long Communications,  
Bring and Buy run by Mayo Radio Experimenters Network  
EPT Pens and Crafts (Shack Signs may be ordered)  
The RSGB Book Stand  
The IRTS Stand  
The Brandmeister Digital Radio Stand  
Sean Martyn - Ex Commercial Radios  
Individual Tables are still available for private traders. The Galway VHF Group does not charge for the table but will charge the admission fee for each person at the table. These need to be booked to avoid disappointment

A number of Radio clubs have been invited to take tables to display their club and its activities. And projects

The AGM of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society takes place at 2pm sharp and we look forward to a large attendance this year.

**IRTS Annual Dinner Tickets** are available from the IRTS Website and may be purchased via PayPal. The tickets are then reserved and held for the applicants for pickup at the door. Please do not leave it too late as we have to book place settings by Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> of April

## 37th Lough Erne Rally

**The SHARE Centre, Lisnaskea,  
Co. Fermanagh BT92 0EQ (SatNav)**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

**Doors open 11:30**

**For information: David GI4VHO**

**For tables: Mark EI4HDB**

**For up-to-date information go to [www.learc.eu](http://www.learc.eu)**

## Chinese Space Station to Return to Earth

The Wireless Institute of Australia reports that an out-of-control Chinese space station moving at 17,000 mph was set to plummet to Earth over this Easter weekend, leaving space experts scrambling to guess where. Tiangong-1, or "The Heavenly Palace," could re-enter the atmosphere over a major city and scientists will not know until a few hours before it happens. The space station was expected to re-enter the atmosphere between March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup>. China has released little information apart from its altitude and without more details of its design European scientists and NASA have had little information on which to base their predictions for the landing area. Do not be concerned or change daily behaviour, and worry more about crossing the street than looking to the sky to see if you are about to be hit on the 'noggin' by space debris. A space debris expert based in Germany said: "Over the past 60 years of space flight, we are nearing the mark of 6,000 uncontrolled re-entries of large objects, mostly satellites and upper rocket stages".

## Contests – April 2018

[WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) : [RSGB HF Contests](#) : [UKEICC Contests](#) : [IRTS Contests](#)

Sun 1	19:00	90 mins	<a href="#">RSGB RoLo SSB</a>	80m, send 6 character QRA Locator from previous QSO
Mon 2	1pm local	1 hour	<a href="#">IRTS 70cm Counties SSB/FM</a>	work everyone, send Serial, County
Mon 2	2pm local	2 hours	<a href="#">IRTS 2m Counties SSB/FM</a>	work everyone, send Serial, County
Mon 2	19:00	90 mins	<a href="#">RSGB CC CW</a>	80m, work UK only, exchange Serials
Wed 4	0:00	60 mins	<a href="#">UKEICC SSB</a>	80m, work everyone, exchange 4 character QRA Locator
Sat 7	15:00	24 hours	<a href="#">SP DX CW/SSB</a>	160-10m, work SP, send Serial, log District
Wed 11	19:00	90 mins	<a href="#">RSGB CC SSB</a>	80m, work UK only, exchange Serials
Sat 14	12:00	24 hours	<a href="#">OK-OM DX SSB</a>	160-10m, work everyone, send Serial, log County Code
Fri 20	21:00	24 hours	<a href="#">Holyland CW/SSB/DATA</a>	160-10m, send Serial, log Area, work 4X only
Sat 21	12:00	24 hours	<a href="#">YU DX CW/SSB</a>	80-10m, work everyone, send Serial, log YU/YT county
Wed 25	20:00	60 mins	<a href="#">UKEICC CW</a>	80m, work everyone, exchange 4 character QRA Locator
Thu 26	19:00	90 mins	<a href="#">RSGB CC DATA</a>	80m, work UK only, exchange Serials
Every	Wed	60 mins	<a href="#">CWops Mini Contests</a>	160-10m, three separate CW contests

List compiled by Joe [EI7GY](#) (All times are UTC, except where stated)